

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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SERIES A

122

DESP. NO.

December 24, 1956

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

Mytels 329-338, December 15; Despatch 47, December 5 from Dhahran;

and Despatch No. 110, December 10, 1956 from Jidda.

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SUBJECT: Audiences with King Saud November 23, December 5, and December 13, 1956;
Transmitting Memorandum-Record of Last of These Three Audiences.

Supplementing my substantive reports submitted in the ten reference telegrams, I enclose a carefully edited memorandum-record of the audience which, accompanied by Lt. General William H. Turner, Commander in Chief of the United States Air Forces in Europe, I had with King Saud on December 13, 1956.

This enclosed record may, I suggest, best be read as a sequel to the memorandum-records of my earlier audiences with His Majesty on November 23 and December 5 which were enclosed with my two reference despatches.

The first of these two reference despatches, no. 47 of December 5 from Dhahran, is entitled "Audience with King Saud of November 23, 1956 and Ensuing Discussions". The second, no. 110 of December 10 from Jidda was, I regret to note, erroneously entitled "Audience with King Saud of November 23, 1956 and Ensuing Discussions with Prince Faisal". The latter should have read "December 5, 1956"; and I should appreciate the Department making the necessary correction.

It is interesting to note the broad coverage of matters of current interest at these three most recent audiences with His Majesty. Each memorandum-record is preceded by a list of subjects. The following is a composite list for the three audiences, the numerals after each subject indicating the particular audience or audiences at which they were raised:

Subject	Audience
1) Hungary and Self-Determination	1
2) Beirut and Damascus Meetings; Baghdad Pact	1
3) Visit of Pakistan President and Saudi-Turk Relations	1, 2
4) Suez Crisis	1, 2
5) Situation in Syria and Jordan	1, 2
6) Presenting Admiral Monroe, COMIDEASTOP	2
7) Question of Farsi and Arabi Islands	2

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- 8) Exchange of Messages between President Eisenhower and King Saud; and proposed meeting. 1,3
- 9) King Saud's Appreciation for United States Position in the Middle East, and Statement 2,3
- 10) Arms for Saudi Arabia 2,3
- 11) Visit of Deputy Secretary of Defense Robertson 3
- 12) Threat to Tapline 3
- 13) Damage to Kuwait Oil Installations 3
- 14) Libya - Activities of USSR and Egypt 3
- 15) U.S. Relations with Britain and France and NATO 3

George Wadsworth

George Wadsworth

Out
Enclosure: Edited Memorandum-Record of Audience with His Majesty King Saud at his Hunting Camp Near Rass, December 13, 1956.

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From

EDITED MEMORANDUM-RECORD OF AUDIENCE

WITH HIS MAJESTY KING SAUD AT HIS HUNTING CAMP NEAR RASS,

December 13, 1956

PARTICIPANTS:

H.M. King Saud

Ambassador Wadsworth

H.E. Shaikh Yusuf Yasin,
Royal Counselor

Lt. General William H. Tunner,
CINCUSAFE, Weisbaden

H.E. Jamal Bey Hussein,
Royal Counselor

Brig. General Lester Light,
CINCUSAFE, Weisbaden

Col. Paul Steinle,
CINCUSAFE, Weisbaden

Interpreter: Mohamed Effendi Massoud, Arab Consultant

Recorder: William A. Stoltzfus, Jr., Vice Consul

SUBJECTS:

- 1) King Saud's Statement
- 2) Visit of Deputy Secretary of Defense Robertson
- 3) Threat to Tapline
- 4) News of Damage to Kuwait Oil Installations
- 5) Libya -- Activities of USSR and Egypt
- 6) U.S. Relations with Britain and France and NATO
- 7) King's Message to President Eisenhower
- 8) Arms for Saudi Arabia
- 9) Proposed Meeting of King Saud with President Eisenhower

1) King Saud's Statement.

After lunch, His Majesty led his guests to his private sitting room in one of the trailers at the hunting camp. After further pleasantries, the Ambassador said:

AMBASSADOR: Shall we begin, Your Majesty, or would Your Majesty prefer to open the discussion?

HIS MAJESTY: Please do so yourself.

AMBASSADOR: I would like first to bring up the subject of Your Majesty's statement. Your Majesty will recall that you charged Shaikh Yusuf and me with the assignment of preparing a statement which you wished to make to express Your Majesty's appreciation for the position the United States has taken in the Middle East during the recent crisis. After preparing a draft statement with Shaikh Yusuf and receiving Prince Faisal's approval, I telegraphed the text to Washington. I subsequently received a reply in which it was requested that I convey to Your Majesty the United States Government's very particular thanks for your desire to issue such a statement. My Government also suggested a modification in one of the sections which, I believe, Your Majesty has already seen and approved.

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AMBASSADOR: Thank you very much, Your Majesty. May I present two more subjects to you before you begin your discussion with General Turner?

HIS MAJESTY: Please proceed.

2) Visit of Deputy Secretary of Defense Robertson to Saudi Arabia

AMBASSADOR: I have already sent word to Your Majesty that Mr. Robertson, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, wishes to visit Saudi Arabia. I hope I may have the pleasure, if the time of his arrival is agreeable to Your Majesty, of meeting Your Majesty once again with Mr. Robertson.

HIS MAJESTY: I received your news and welcome Mr. Robertson's visit. I agree to it.

AMBASSADOR: I hope Mr. Robertson's visit will further add to the good relations between our two countries.

HIS MAJESTY: I also hope so.

3) Threat to Tapline

AMBASSADOR: I am sorry that I have to bring up the next subject, Your Majesty, because it is an unpleasant one. I do not know if Mr. Davies told you about it yesterday, but it concerns Tapline. I regret to say that I have received the disturbing news that Tapline may be in danger. Please allow me to explain: During the November 29 to December 1 meetings in Damascus, of representatives of the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, a committee under the leadership of Anwar SALAMAH, an Egyptian leftist labor organizer and agitator, discussed plans to blow up Tapline. It was decided that this would be done if the policy of the United States appeared to be shifting from a pro-Arab to a pro-Imperialist line.

Now, I do not need to reassure Your Majesty about our policy. It is unthinkable that we would be pro-Imperialist. So, if the sabotage is to occur only if there is a change in our policy, Tapline is safe. But extremists like some members of the Confederation of Arab Trade Unions may find a new reason to suit their purposes, and this would be good for no one but Russia. As Shaikh Yusuf and I have discussed before, Russia often works under the guise of Arab nationalism. I only offer to Your Majesty the suggestion that it may be wise to take every precaution -- especially at the pumping stations --

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to ensure that the extremists do not succeed if they attempt to damage the oil lines.

AMBASSADOR: Your Majesty, I think it could happen in Saudi Arabia. If so, it would be done by outside extremists so as to cast suspicion on the Saudis and thus make it look as though Saudis themselves had done it.

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(His Majesty nodded).

That is all I have for Your Majesty today, and now I am sure General Tunner has some matters he would like to discuss with Your Majesty.

HIS MAJESTY: Thank you. Please proceed, General.

5) Libya - Difficulties Engendered by Activities of USSR and Egypt

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6) US Relations with Britain and France and NATO

GENERAL TUNNER: The United States is working with its allies in Europe, because if war comes we will have to fight Russia and we want to be all together when that happens. We are building airfields and we have to dis-
pense our forces carefully so that we are prepared because we must expect a surprise attack. The Germans are contributing very well to our combined efforts. But although things are going well, we have problems -- especially petroleum problems.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: I was very interested in what General Tunner had to say. I hope Your Majesty has also found it interesting. If Your Majesty has any questions I am sure he will be happy to answer.

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HIS MAJESTY: While the General is here let us take the opportunity to explore the matter further. We agree with the policy of containment as outlined by the General, and you know our policy and that we will not change it. However, I have two points to make to the General.

We have heard that the United States and the Western Allies have agreed on a policy plan for the Middle East and have established a Committee to study this plan and how it can be put into effect. I want, first, to say that the planners should not commit any serious or basic mistakes and, second, to ask how they can take any decisions without the advice of the countries in the area. If basic mistakes are made, United States policy will be bad.

As it is, the policy of the United States is good, but if it shifts to that of its principal allies, it will be bad and will exert a bad influence on Arab countries. The "third party" -- that is, those who have made the mistakes in this area -- are trying to get the United States to join them. I do not have to tell you that the United States is in the spotlight today and everything depends upon the position of the United States.

7) King's Message to President Eisenhower

I have prepared my message to President Eisenhower and will give it to you now. There is an English translation with it.

AMBASSADOR: I am most grateful to Your Majesty.

HIS MAJESTY: My aim in sending this message is both to show my sincerity and to assure that our friendship with the United States will be continued and will not be impeded by anything.

(Shaikh Yusuf handed the King an envelope containing the signed Arabic original of the message and an English translation. The King presented the envelope to Ambassador Wadsworth).

HIS MAJESTY: I was waiting for President Eisenhower's emissary to come, but since he has been delayed, and having full confidence in Your Excellency, I am giving the message to you.

AMBASSADOR: I am happy to receive this message, Your Majesty. I shall transmit it to Washington by telegram this evening. With your permission, I would like to read it now in case Your Majesty has any comments to make. (Ambassador reading) Your Majesty's discussion of Palestine is similar to what Prince Faisal told me a short time ago in Riyadh. (Reading further) I see Your Majesty speaks of "consultation"; does Your Majesty envisage any special technique therefor? (Ambassador completing reading) I have read the message with much interest, Your Majesty.

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8) Arms for Saudi Arabia

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AMBASSADOR: Your Majesty, I have told General Turner of our arms talks, and of Your Majesty's valued cooperation in this and other fields. I told him also of your last personal emergency request for ammunition and arms, including six T-33 jet trainers. I also briefed him fully on the present status of our Dhahran Airfield negotiations and told him that Your Majesty and I have come to agreement on many of the details, such as the coordination of the civil and military aspects of the airfield's operations, mapping, weather service, communications and related matters. General Turner was pleased to hear that Your Majesty and I have agreed on these points because he is directly concerned with the airfield and is interested in its future progress.

[REDACTED] I have told General Turner also of the 85 million dollars worth of arms desired by Your Majesty to complete the 5-year plan. I am in hopes of an early reply.

The six T-33 jet trainers are important because you cannot have an air force until the pilots have been trained. Since General Turner is particularly interested in the Air Force program, I am wondering if he could help in obtaining these trainers urgently ordered many months ago under the Five Year Plan.

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AMBASSADOR: Does Your Majesty envisage that the broad problem of arms for Saudi Arabia would await your visit with the President?

[REDACTED]

AMBASSADOR: The emphasis, therefore, is on the meeting with the President and the urgency of the meeting in our common interest.

AMBASSADOR: There are some beautiful new boats that can be taken from Italy. I wish Your Majesty would take me with you. I have been so busy that for many years I have not travelled by boat. The important point, however, is that Your Majesty will receive the answer regarding a meeting with the President from highest level. That I know and told Your Majesty at our last meeting.

AMBASSADOR: I have not myself spoken of this visit because I have expected the answer to come to Your Majesty from the highest level. I welcome the opportunity to telegraph the sense of this conversation to my Government.

(On this note the audience ended)

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